

give them 12 years. After 12 years, you allow a generic, unless they slightly change a molecule or a process and you get another 12 years and another 12 years and another 12 years. So in addition to 20 years worth of patent protection, they want 12 years of market exclusivity which has the exact same effect as patent protection. When FDA grants a drug market exclusivity, it means that FDA will not approve any generic version of that drug, period.

After the first 12 years of market exclusivity is over, the biologics industry wants to slightly modify their product, and they get another 12 years of market exclusivity. And if they slightly modify the product again, they want another 12 years and another. In other words, they want no generic competition.

We have generic competition in all kinds of drugs that are very well known, but there is no provision for any kind of generic competition for these biologics. The Federal Trade Commission, the government agency with no skin in the game, with no belief that one product is better than another, with no ties to the drug industry, with no ties to anybody, issued a report asserting that the biologics industry gets plenty of marketplace protection through patents and they should not be afforded even 1 day of market exclusivity, much less 12 or 24 or 36 years.

AARP recently reported that the top 10 biologics recoup their R&D investment after 2 years of sales. The industry claims they need decades sometimes to recoup their investment. But the AARP doesn't make this stuff up. Biologics manufacturers, even though AARP said they only need 2 years of sales to recoup their investment, are given more time than that so they can make a healthy profit. Yet biologics manufacturers are asking for 20 years of patent protection, coupled with 12 more years of market exclusivity; again, renewed over and over. That is the way they like it. The biologics industry wants us to go home and tell constituents with arthritis or respiratory illness, hemophilia, cancer, or multiple sclerosis, numerous other conditions now treated by biologics, if they are lucky, in 24 or 36 years they will have access to treatments that are more affordable.

If we care about patients and fiscal responsibility, we will not allow the biologics industry to bully us into giving them more marketplace protection than any other industry. But it will take the personal will of Members from both sides of the aisle to overcome the biologic industry's clout.

Some Members of this body have already taken a stand. I was proud to join Senator SCHUMER, Senator COLLINS, Senator VITTER, and Senator BINGAMAN—Democrats and Republicans—to introduce legislation that would close the gap on FDA law that prevents generic versions of biologics from being approved. This legislation

is a compromise. It would provide 5 years of market exclusivity—remember, they already have patent protection—the same as that provided to other prescription drugs. Then they would be eligible for an additional 3 years of market exclusivity for beneficial changes to their products and even more exclusivity if they conduct pediatric tests on their product. This tiered approach, which I hope to include as part of the health care reform bill moving through the HELP Committee, would provide needed competition, long-term savings, and an opportunity for consumers to have safe, effective, and affordable medical treatments.

I credit the manufacturers and the scientists and thank them, the medical researchers, for this. They provide great promise and hope to those suffering from devastating diseases and chronic illness. But absent price competition, countless Americans will be unable to benefit from these medicines because they are too expensive. We are talking about tens of thousands of dollars a year just for this drug treatment, this biologic treatment, let alone all the other doctors' bills and medicine they would need.

I hope when my colleagues are lobbied by the biologics industry—and they are spending millions of dollars on this because it means hundreds of millions of dollars in more profits for them—I hope when my colleagues are lobbied by the biologics industry, they will remember 12 plus 12 plus 12. It simply does not work for us. The American patients, American businesses, and American taxpayers cannot afford to wait 12 or 24 or 36 years for affordable biologics. Frankly, we should not make them wait.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN HONOR OF JOE CONNAUGHTON

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I have spoken here a few times already about Federal employees and the great work they perform. I am honored to be in a position to come here and do it again. I enjoy sharing stories in this Chamber about excellent public servants.

These stories are only but a few pieces in the vivid mosaic of our Federal workforce. The stories are exemplary, not exceptional. These are regular people doing a great job.

The real story of our Federal employees—that of their dedication, their talents, and their important contributions—needs to be told.

Service in government is characterized by sacrifice. Many of our Federal employees wear a uniform and sacrifice on the battlefield. Others work in civil-

ian jobs but still make great sacrifices by working long hours and foregoing opportunities in the private sector, such as substantially better pay and bonuses. Their bonus, as I have said before, is the satisfaction of having served their country.

Today I wish to speak about a man who risked his life during wartime and then spent nearly three decades working as a civilian engineer for the U.S. Army Missile Command.

Joe Connaughton, a native of Tuscaloosa, AL, had already distinguished himself during the Second World War. He served as a navigator and bombardier on 47 missions in both the European and Pacific theaters. Joe was decorated with three air medals and four battle stars, and his unit received the Croix de Guerre for support provided to the French Expeditionary Force during the Allied offensive in Italy.

After returning home, Joe took advantage of the GI bill to pursue a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Alabama. He began working for the U.S. Army Missile Command near Huntsville in the late 1950s.

For 27 years, Joe worked for the Army Missile Command's Research, Development, and Engineering Division at Redstone Arsenal. He and his engineering team helped develop and perfect weapons systems critical to maintaining our military edge during the Cold War. This included the Lance, Hellfire, and THAAD missile propulsion systems.

When Joe and his colleagues were working on the Hellfire missile, which is carried primarily by the Apache attack helicopter, there was a problem when the TV-based guidance system encountered difficulties in smoke and bad weather. A missile whose own propulsion method gives off a smoke plume cannot be accurately directed if the smoke hinders its guidance system. The engineering team on which Joe worked developed a smokeless propellant, which greatly enhanced the missile's accuracy.

For this achievement, Joe and his team earned the Army Missile Command's Scientific and Engineering Award in 1980.

When the Hellfire entered service in 1984, it was intended for use against Soviet tanks in a future Cold War conflict. But with the collapse of communism in Europe just a few years later, some began to doubt whether its development—and that of similar systems—was worth the cost.

However, with the laser guidance and missile propulsion system developed by the civilian engineers at Redstone Arsenal, the Hellfire proved its worth during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

In that conflict, the Army and Marine Corps used the Hellfire to disable the Iraqi air defenses in its initial strike, quickly gaining air supremacy. Apache helicopters launched Hellfire missiles against a myriad of targets,

demonstrating the usefulness and effectiveness of this new weapon.

This guided missile system, perfected in Alabama by Joe and other Federal employees, helped spare civilian lives in Iraq and ensured a rapid coalition victory. They continue to play a major role today, as Predator drones carry Hellfire missiles on missions over Afghanistan.

Our military depends on countless civilian engineers just like Joe. Without their hard work and important contributions, we could not maintain the military strength we have today. They are all—every one of them—Government workers, and they work on bases and in research facilities throughout the country, including at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

These men and women wake up each day and go to work knowing that they directly participate in keeping America safe. The technologies they develop remain at the forefront of our fight against al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

We must never forget that they, along with the rest of our civilian government employees, enable the military to do its job.

Some give their lives for our country. Others give their lives to it. All of them demonstrate this greatest hallmark of patriotism; which is sacrifice.

Joe could have made more money in the private sector. Doubtless, he could have moved from the Army Missile Command to work for a private military contractor, the same people he worked with on a daily basis in developing these systems. But he didn't. His priority was making a contribution, not making money.

In some ways, we have lost sight of this sense of purpose, which is the engine of our American spirit. I am greatly encouraged that President Obama has called for a new generation to take up the torch of public service through careers in government. He has called on us, once again, to make sacrifices in order to ensure the future safety and prosperity of this country we all love so dearly.

Our Federal employees, like Joe, feel a sense of duty to serve this great Nation. It is what sustained him—a 20-year-old airman from Alabama—over Italy, France, Yugoslavia, China and Japan. It is what sustained him as an engineer when he returned home to Alabama and worked to build America's defenses. It is love of country. It is service above self.

Joe embodies this spirit, and I know he has passed it on to the next generation. I can see it firsthand, because his son, Jeff, is my chief of staff—a great Federal employee and a great person.

Families across America will gather this Sunday to mark Father's Day and to celebrate the important bond between fathers and their children. On this occasion I am reminded of my own father—who spent most of his career as a government employee—and the important lessons he taught me about the value of public service.

I also think about fathers throughout America who have chosen—along with so many mothers—to dedicate their careers to serving the public. They are powerful role models, not only for their own daughters and sons, but for all young Americans who want a chance to shape this country's future.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in honoring the sacrifices and the achievements of all our Federal employees.

I want to wish Joe a happy Father's Day, and I extend the same well wishes to fathers across the country, and especially to those serving overseas or with a loved one serving overseas.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, Senator KYL and I will join in introducing a resolution concerning freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Iran.

In the past week, the flow of information in and out of Iran has been suppressed. Voices in Iran have been silenced, and the international right to freedom of expression has been restricted, especially in the press.

I support Iran's sovereignty and deeply respect the will of the Iranian people. While Iran has enthusiastically embraced elections, the long road to democracy does not end there. It also includes fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, which is protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In 1976, Iran was one of the first countries to ratify this U.N. treaty which also protects the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to receive and impart information in writing, print, or through any other media.

Our resolution supports the Iranian people as they take steps to peacefully express their opinions and aspirations and seek access to means of communication and the news. It expresses respect for the sovereignty, proud history, and rich culture of the Iranian people, and recognizes the universal values of freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

As President Obama said earlier this week:

The democratic process—free speech [and] the ability of people to peacefully dissent

... are universal values and need to be respected.

This is the case not just in Iran but anywhere in the world.

Since the Iranian presidential election on June 12, there have been increased restrictions on freedom of the press in Iran and limitations on the free flow of information. Newspapers and news services have been censored, access for journalists has been restricted, and specific media outlets have been blocked. Foreign journalists have had their press credentials canceled and videos confiscated. They have been confined to their hotels and told their visas would not be renewed. Bureaus of foreign press agencies in Tehran have been closed, and others have been instructed to suspend all their Farsi-language news.

For Iranian journalists, the stakes have been even higher. Numerous Iranian journalists have been detained, imprisoned, assaulted, and intimidated since the elections on June 12. Journalists have been instructed to file stories solely from their offices, which has limited their ability to provide timely and accurate news. There has also been interference with international broadcasting in Iran, whether through the jamming of radio transmissions or blockage of satellite signals.

Shortwave and medium-wave transmissions from the Farsi-language Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Radio Farda have been partially jammed, and satellite broadcasts, including those of the Voice of America's Persian News Network and the British Broadcasting Corporation, have also been intermittently blocked as well. These services are widely popular in Iran, serving as a vital source of communication and entertainment, and attempts to thwart such broadcasts are shameful.

Efforts to suppress the free flow of information have not focused on the media alone. Blogs and social networking sites have been targeted as well, including popular Web sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Short message service in Iran has been blocked—preventing text message communications and jamming Internet sites that utilize such services—and cell phone service has been partially shut down.

These restrictions have prevented the free flow of information and precluded Iranian citizens from communicating with each other. Some Iranians have circumvented these restrictions through proxy Web sites and third-party carriers, and the Internet has served, at times, as the only outlet for communication within Iran and with the rest of the world.

This resolution reinforces the universal values of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. It supports the Iranian people as they take steps to peacefully express their voices, opinions, and aspirations. It condemns the detainment, the imprisonment, and the intimidation of all journalists in Iran and throughout the world.